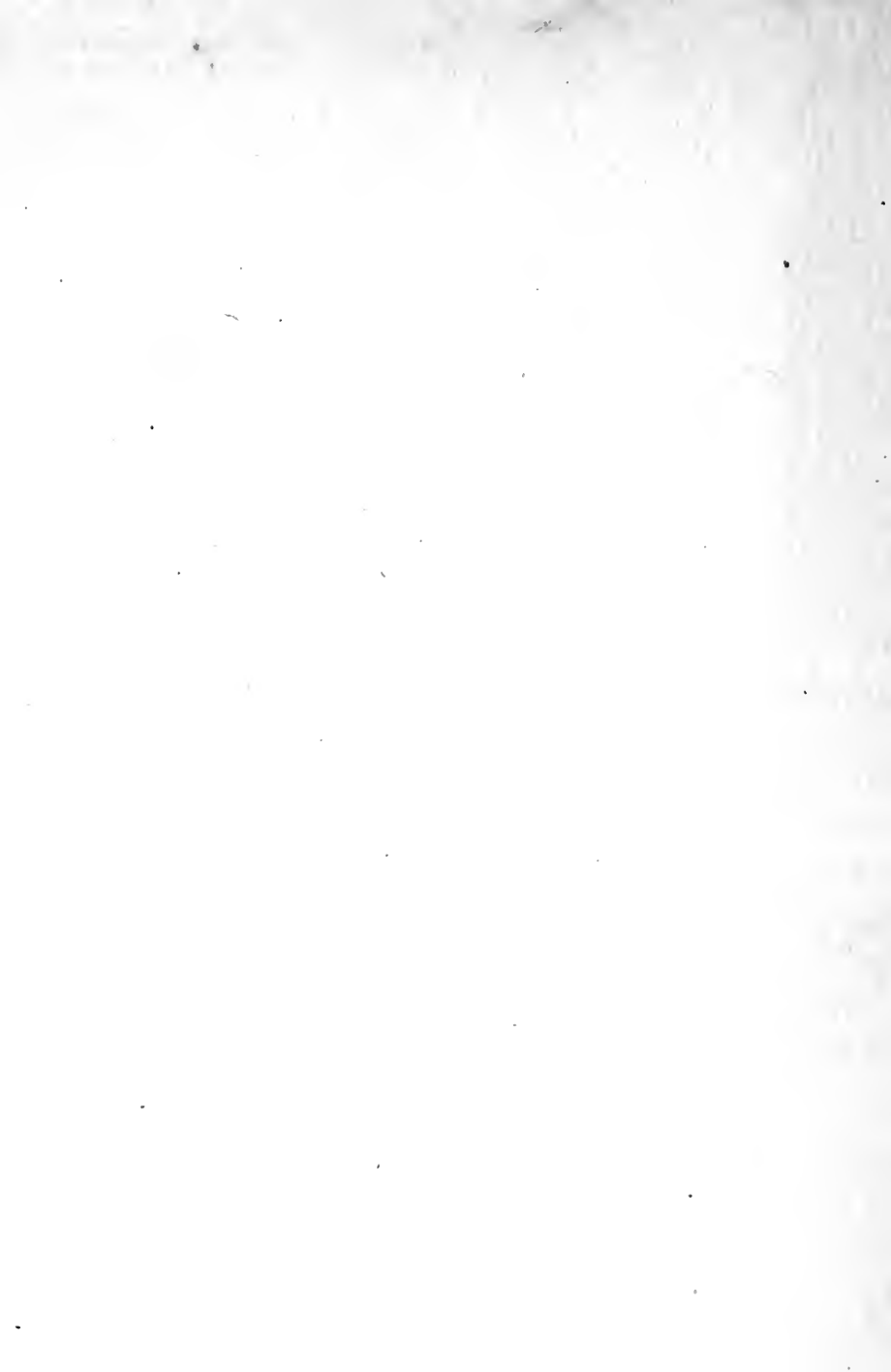


MENNONITES OF BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO

— W. H. GRUBB —



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HISTORY
of the
MENNONITES
of
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO
by
REV. W. H. GRUBB
Pastor of the
APOSTOLIC MENNONITE CHURCH
TRENTON, OHIO

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR

1916

TO THE MEMORY OF
MY MOTHER
THIS VOLUME IS AFFECTIONATELY
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Rev. W. H. Grubb



REV. W. H. GRUBB

INTRODUCTION

Long ago, the wise man said "of the making of many books there is no end." Of the making of history the same may be said. Every day and deed is a part of future history, and from her pages speak events, experiences and deeds. One of the chief difficulties which Mennonite historians have found in their efforts to write the story of their people is the fact that material for such a task is very meagre, since the church has in the past, in many localities, neglected to keep records of their church activities.

If each church or settlement had kept a record of its activities, the writing of a complete Mennonite history would be an easy matter. The author has endeavored to record the facts of the Butler county settlement while it was still possible to secure at least sufficient information to write a connected story. It has been indeed no easy task to go back ninety-six years and gather facts and dates of the life and work of those who have long since passed away.

The work of this volume has been made possible by the family bibles, diaries and family traditions placed in my hands by many interested friends, and I here desire to express my gratitude and appreciation to all who thus assisted me in this undertaking. I, therefore, place this volume in your hands as a contribution to Mennonite history, and may it be an incentive to those who follow after us, to live and preserve the faith which was so dear to our fathers, is my wish and prayer.

W. H. GRUBB.

Trenton, Ohio, November, 1915.

THE SETTLEMENT

The Butler county settlement was the third of the Amish branch of the Mennonite Church in Ohio. The first was located on the Sugar Creek, in Tuscarawas county, in 1808, when a preacher, John Miller, came from Somerset county, Pennsylvania. The second being in Wayne county as early as 1817, when a Jacob Yoder moved there from Mifflin county, Pennsylvania.

The pioneer of the Butler county settlement was Christian Augspurger. He had been the manager of a farm near Strassburg, then a province of France, owned by Charles Schulmeister, a spy under Napoleon the First. He came to America in 1817 and settled in Pennsylvania, and a little later, in company with others, went farther west as far as the Miami Valley. Here he decided to make his future home, but being a friend of society and in a strange country without friends, he became discouraged, and in 1818, with his family, returned to France.

Finding, upon his return, that his farm had been leased to another man for a number of years, he decided to return to America and make his permanent home and fortune there. In the spring of 1819, he again left with his family and a colony of thirty-six families for America. Of these, six families came to Butler county, in August of the same year. They were as follows: Christian Augspurger, his brother Joseph, their second cousin, Jacob Augspurger, Christian Sommer, John Miller and John Gunden. These were all members of the Amish branch of the Church.

Christian Augspurger purchased a farm in Milford township near Collinsville. In 1829 he also purchased a

two hundred and fifty acre farm in Madison township, and moved there April 1, 1830. He at one time owned nineteen hundred and seventy-five acres of land in Bulter county. The amount of land owned by the Augspurgers and their descendants in Butler, Warren and Preble counties at one time was three thousand six hundred and sixty-three acres.

Other families soon followed them from the old country, so that in 1825 there were nine Amish families in Milford township. In 1828-30-31, others came, and in 1832 a ship load of Hessian Mennonites, about one hundred persons in all, came to Butler county, which by this time had become a center for future settlements in the West.

As early as 1831, some of the unmarried young men and women, with other families who had come from Alsace-Lorraine, drifted to the rich lands of Illinois, where in 1833 they established the first Amish Church west of Ohio. In 1840 others went to Iowa, and in 1847 several families, under the leadership of Rev. Joseph Goldsmith, went to Lee county, where they organized the first Amish congregation in that state. In the fifties other families went to Missouri. After this few or no families came to Butler county as their permanent home. Those who did come from the old country stayed only long enough to earn money to get a start in the states west of Ohio. In recent years a number of families have gone to California, Canada and Texas.

A CONGREGATION ORGANIZED

After the colony was settled in their new home, and had erected houses, they felt the need of a resident minister. There is no doubt that from the beginning

they met together at various times for worship. In 1825 a Rev. Jacob Krehbiel from Canada was induced to locate here and minister to their spiritual needs. From that time on religious services were then held regularly in the homes, after the custom of the Amish at that time.

In 1828 Rev. Peter Naffziger located here, having come from Europe by way of Canada. He at once became a leader in the colony. The congregation grew and prospered, and in 1830 Jacob Augspurger was chosen and ordained to the office of bishop, he being the first Mennonite preacher ordained in Butler county.

In 1832 Rev. Krehbiel, being quite aged, moved away and later lived with his son in Iowa. At this time Peter Schrock was elected a minister to assist Naffziger and Augspurger. As Naffziger spent much of his time in travel, Augspurger became the principal minister.

The same year there was an immigration of Hessian Mennonites, who differed from these already here in that they had musical instruments and wore more modern clothing. They were accepted into the congregation, but not having been connected with the Amish branch before they came to Butler county and having come from a different German state could not always accept the views of their brethren, who put much stress upon simplicity and plainness, as well as being strict in the use of discipline. These differences caused so much strife that they could not longer worship together.

CONGREGATION DIVIDED

At a meeting held in the home of Rev. Joseph Goldsmith, on May 8, 1835, it was decided to divide into two congregations, with Naffziger as pastor of the new organization, while Augspurger and Schrock remained

with the mother congregation. The families which united with the new organization were Holly, Naffziger, Iutzi, Brennaman, Kennel, Gingrich, Sommer, Danner, Stecker, Burcky, Schert, Jordy, Conrad and Lehman.

The organizations were then distinguished as the Augspurger and Hessian congregations, and by some outside people as the Hook-and-Eye and Button churches. Each worked independently of the other. The former emphasized plainness and wore hooks and eyes on their clothes instead of buttons, while the latter permitted freedom in dress and encouraged education.

COLLINSVILLE CONGREGATION

Of the Collinsville congregation, very little is known, except that it existed for a time under the leadership of Revs. King and Goldsmith. Many of the older people now living remember attending meetings there with their parents. Its organization probably dates from the division in 1835. It seems that its ministers did not take sides with either the Augspurger or the Hessian factions.

Shortly after the division, Goldsmith moved near Darrtown. There being a few families in Milford township, he with his uncle, Benedict King, held meetings independent of the other congregations. About 1834 Rev. Daniel Unsicker, an ordained preacher, came from Hamilton, Canada, located in Milford township and identified himself with this congregation.

In the year 1838 King ordained Goldsmith to the office of bishop, and in 1847 Goldsmith moved to Iowa. A short time before, King moved to Fulton county, where he died. After the death of Unsicker, the remaining members united with the two existing congregations.

A meeting-house was never built, the meetings being held in the homes of the members. In the sixties the ministers of the other congregations again held services here at stated times for a number of years, and later in the Methodist church. When the Presbyterian church was built the Mennonites secured an interest in the building. Since 1909 this privilege has not been used; some families have moved away, others have died.

AUGSPURGER CONGREGATION

The mother church adhered to the Amish branch, and when the first Amish Conference was organized, in 1862, it became a part, and was represented at the various sessions. From the beginning it had a steady growth and was the stronger of the two organizations.

In 1847 Nicholas Augspurger became the principal minister. He was a strict disciplinarian, but an able preacher and leader. During the greater part of his ministry the church was in a flourishing condition, but near the close the changed conditions and environments of the members, the strict enforcement of discipline and intermarrying into the families of the Hessian congregation the church began to decline.

Peter Imhoff became the leading minister in 1870, and being a man of sound judgment and liberal views he encouraged a closer relation of the two churches. It was during his ministry that the congregation experienced a revival and the two congregations were gradually being drawn together.

Services were held in the homes of the members until the year 1863, when a meetinghouse was built near Overpeck on an acre of ground donated by Christian Sloneker, with the provision that when it ceases to be used for the purpose for which it was given it shall revert to the heirs of his estate.

A Sunday-school was established about the year 1880 and flourished for about ten years, when it was discontinued, lack of support and co-operation being the principal reason.

In 1907 the last remaining minister, C. K. Augspurger, and the members united with the Hessian congregation. From the records of the last two bishops, we learn that during the last fifty years of the congregation's existence 193 members were received into the church by baptism.

The ministers who served the congregations were:

Jacob Krehbiel	-	-	1825 to 1832
Peter Naffziger	-	-	1828 to 1835
Jacob Augspurger	-	-	1830 to 1846
Peter Schrock	-	-	1832 to 1887
Joseph Goldsmith	-	-	1831 to 1835
Benedict King	-	-	1835
Joseph Kinsinger	-	-	1844 to 1857
Nicholas Augspurger	-	-	1847 to 1872
Christian Ramseyer	-	-	1860 to 1865
Joseph Kinsinger	-	-	1861 to 1868
Peter Imhoff	-	-	1861 to 1896
Joseph Augspurger, 2nd			1864
Peter Kinsinger	-	-	1867 to 1888
Joseph Augspurger, 4th			1872 to 1887
Joseph Meyer	-	-	1886
Christian K. Augspurger			1867 to 1897

HESSIAN CONGREGATION

The first twenty-five years of the congregation's existence there were no marked activities. Services were held in the homes of the members at stated times, Naffziger being the leading minister. His son-in-law, Michael Kistler, was elected to assist him shortly after



APOSTOLIC MENNONITE CHURCH

the division, others were elected later to assist, as Naffziger spent much of his time visiting various settlements.

Later Jacob Mueller, an ordained minister and elder, came from Germany, and for ten years was the leader of the congregation. He was followed by Peter Kennel, who had the oversight of the congregation for several years. The congregation having grown in numbers, it became apparent that the assembling in the homes of the members was inconvenient and unsatisfactory.

About this time Joseph Augspurger was elected a minister, and he being a man of more than ordinary abilities was soon recognized as a leader. Two years later he was elected and ordained the Elder of the congregation, and at once he urged the building of a meetinghouse and the incorporation of the organization.

Accordingly on August 29, 1863, the congregation was incorporated as the Apostolic Mennonite Society in Butler county, and the following were named as trustees: John Augspurger, Samuel Augspurger, John Kennel, Sr., John Kennel, Jr., and John Iutzi.

On November 19, of the same year, one and one-half acres of land were purchased in St. Clair township from John Good for a church site and cemetery purposes, for the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars. The following spring, 1864, the meetinghouse was completed and used for worship.

The church grew in usefulness and increased in membership under the able leadership of Joseph Augspurger. Several years later his brother, John, and John Unzicker were elected to assist him. John Augspurger, while not classed as a pulpit orator, was a faithful minister of Jesus Christ, and a wise counsellor, his advice

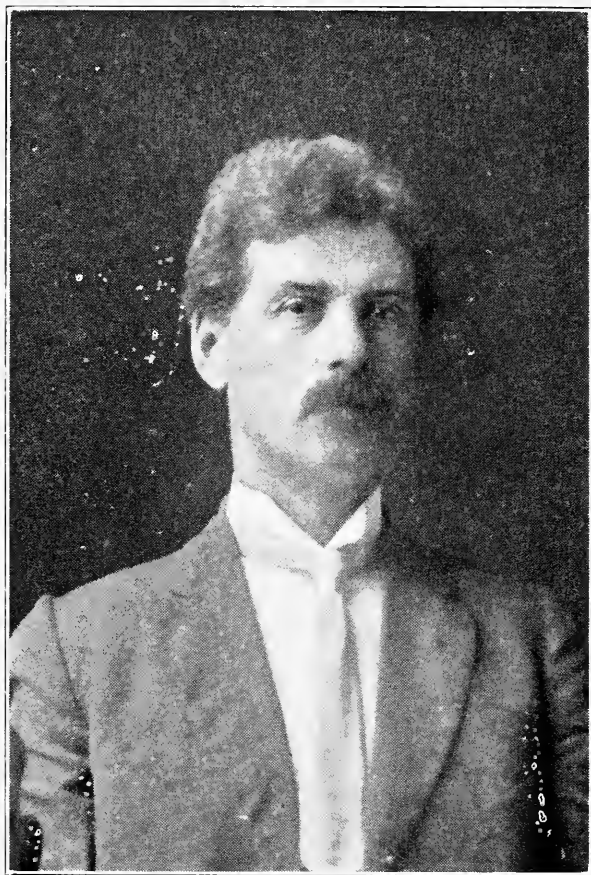
was always sought when important matters were to be considered, and to him belongs a large share of credit for the successful career of the church.

A new era in the history of the church began when in July, 1892, at a meeting called by Rev. Joseph Augspurger, he with the two remaining ministers, Peter Kennel and John Augspurger, asked to be relieved of their duties as leaders of the church, and suggested that a trained man be called and supported by the congregation. The request was granted, and a call extended to Rev. Henry J. Krehbiel, who entered upon his duties September 25, 1892. The congregation numbered at this time one hundred and fifty members. In 1897 the Augspurger congregation merged with this congregation, and the church now numbered two hundred and fifty members.

During these years the congregation was without any conference connection, though interested in the work of the General Conference of Mennonites of North America and in close touch with it through the visits of Rev. John B. Baer, the travelling Home Missionary of this body. At the triennial session in 1892 the congregation was admitted into this body, and the following year united with the Middle District Conference.

A PARSONAGE BUILT

Early in 1900 the matter of building a parsonage was considered, and on March 21 one acre of ground was purchased in the village of Trenton and a committee named to formulate plans and solicit funds. The committee found a ready response, and in November, of the same year, the house was completed and occupied by the minister's family.



REV. H. J. KREHBIEL

NEW CHURCH BUILDING

The building of a church in Trenton was considered at a meeting held in Jaunary, 1904, and again in October, of the same year, when it was decided to build. A committee was appointed to solicit funds and formulate plans, and at a meeting held December 14, 1905, presented the plan of the present building, to cost eight thousand dollars with subscriptions amounting to thirty-nine hundred dollars. Their plan was accepted and the committee was authorized to proceed with the building. The dedication took place October 11, 1908, and at this time the old church in the country was abandoned. Since the congregation has moved into town it is known by the name adopted when it was incorporated.

APOSTOLIC MENNONITE CHURCH

The building is modern and built of brick, with a spacious basement arranged for social gatherings, with a fully equipped kitchen, pastor's study, Sunday-school room and a primary room.

The congregation has always stood for education and progress, and has always taken a deep interest in missions. When the school at Wadsworth, Ohio, was established, the first institution of higher education in America, by the Mennonites, there were perhaps more students from this congregation that attended the school than from any other Mennonite settlement, there being no less than fifteen, besides liberal financial support.

The Central Mennonite College, now Bluffton College, and Mennonite Seminary, received from the beginning liberal support and students. The congregation can justly feel proud that the esteemed president of

this institution, Dr. S. K. Mosiman, who is a recognized leader in educational circles and in the Mennonite denomination, is one of the sons of this congregation. Dr. Eddison Mosiman, President of Freeman College, S. D., one of the rising institutions of that state, is likewise a son of this church. Miss Bina Holly is a member of the faculty of Wooster University, and a number of other members are following the teaching profession.

It has likewise supported the Mision cause with both workers and gifts. In 1896 Mrs. Bertha Kinsinger Petter entered the services of the Mission Board at the Contonment station in Oklahoma as a teacher and worker among the Cheyenne Indians, which position she still holds. Miss Agnes Williams is also a teacher and worker at the same station. For some years Miss Lisetta Kinsinger was connected with the Cantonment station as a nurse, and Dr. Mosiman as superintendent.

Besides liberal contributions from the congregation, Mrs. Catherine Bender gave very liberal sums at various times to the Mission Boards, and in 1912 the sum of \$500 for the purchase of a multigraph to enable Rev. Petter to publish a dictionary of the Cheyenne language.

The ministers who served the congregation were:

Peter Naffziger	- -	1835 to 1844
Michael Kistler	- -	1835 to 1842
Peter Holly	- - -	1836 to 1854
Daniel Holly	- - -	1841 to 1848
Jacob Mueller	- -	1845 to 1855
Peter Kennel	- - -	1847 to 1896
Christian Holly	- -	1860 to 1882
Joseph Augspurger, 3rd		1860 to 1896
John Augspurger	- -	1867 to 1912
John Unzicker	- -	1867 to 1886

Henry J. Krehbiel	- -	1892 to 1909
John E. Amstutz	- -	1909 to 1911
William H. Grubb	- -	1913

T. J. Simpson, a Presbyterian student, supplied the church from 1911 to 1913.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY

In the year 1891 a Missionary Society was organized and has since been an active organization. The meetings are held monthly, and the various mission fields are studied, and the offerings given to the various fields of the church.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

About the year 1895 a Christian Endeavor Society was organized, but after ten years' activity no meetings were held for a number of years. On May 21, 1916, a society was again organized, and is at the present time in a flourishing condition.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

A Sunday-school was organized in the spring of 1876, and flourished. During the year 1879 an organ was used in the Sunday-school. To this many of the members objected, which caused strife and dissatisfaction and the school was discontinued.

In the spring of 1888 the school was reorganized, and in 1889 an organ was again purchased and used both in the Sunday-school and church services.

Until 1890 the sessions were conducted entirely in the German language. At this time several English classes were formed and several years later the school became entirely English.

Since the congregation has moved into town the school has adopted modern methods, using the graded lessons, having organized classes, home department, cradle roll, etc.

The following persons have served as superintendents since its organization in 1876:

Peter B. Holly	-	-	-	1876-1877
Joseph A. Kennel	-	-	-	1878-1879
Joseph Kinsinger	-	-	-	1888-1889
John J. Kennel	-	-		1890-1891-1909
John W. Augspurger	-	-	-	1892
Alex J. Kennel	-			1893-1894-1898
William C. Augspurger	-	-	-	1895
Louis Augspurger	-	-	-	1896
Adolph Augspurger	-			1897-1899-1903
Rudolph Kinsinger	-	-		1900-1901
Simon Ehresman	-	-	-	1902-1904
William Mosiman	-	-	-	1905
Elmer Mosiman				
1906-1910-1911-1912-1913-1914				
Mrs. Ida Augspurger				1907-1908-1915
Theodore Ehresman	-	-	-	1910
M'Della Moon	-	-	-	1910
Edna Kennel	-	-	-	1916



HESSIAN MEETING HOUSE

BIOGRAPHIES

Rev. Peter Holly

Peter Holly, with his family, came to America and settled in Butler county in 1832. He was one of the organizers of the Hessian congregation, and was called as one of its ministers on May 10, 1835. In the year 1847 he was advanced to the office of Bishop, and served in this capacity until his death, which occurred in 1854.

Rev. Daniel Holly

Daniel Holly was born in Germany, August 3, 1816, and came to America and settled in Butler county in 1832. He united in marriage with Helen Bender, April 2, 1839. He was one of the organizers of the Hessian congregation, and was elected one of its ministers in the year 1841, in which office he faithfully served until 1848, when he removed to Illinois.

Rev. Peter Kennel

Peter Kennel, son of Peter and Magdalena Kennei, was born in Bavaria, on April 9, 1813, came with his parents to America in 1830. He was married to Susan Iutzi, June 18, 1839. In the year 1847 he was elected and ordained a bishop in the Hessian congregation, having been elected a minister several years before. He died October 25, 1896, aged 83 years, 6 months and 16 days, and is buried in the Mennonite cemetery.

Rev. J. Michael Kistler

J. Michael Kistler was born March 8, 1808. He came to America and settled in Butler county about 1830. He was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. Peter and Barbara Naffziger. About the year 1835 he

was elected a minister in the Hessian congregation, and served until 1842, when he moved to Illinois. He died March 12, 1876, and is buried at Garden City, Mo.

Rev. John Unzicker

John Unzicker, son of Rev. Daniel and Magdalena Unzicker, was born near Collinsville, Ohio, April 30, 1834. He was married to Mary Sloneker on December 15, 1859. In 1867 he was elected a minister in the Hessian congregation. His death occurred October 27, 1886, and is buried in the Union cemetery, Collinsville.

Rev. Joseph Meyer

Joseph Meyer was born in Belford, France, in the year 1812. In 1828 he came to America and settled in Butler county, where he united with the Augspurger congregation and was later elected one of its ministers. He was married to Mary Augspurger. He died December 24, 1886, and is buried in the Augspurger cemetery.

Rev. Nicholas Augspurger

Nicholas Augspurger, son of Rev. Jacob and Mary Augspurger, was born in Alsace, France, August 11, 1811, and with his parents came to America and settled in Butler county, Ohio, in 1819. He united in marriage with Magdalena Gautsche, March 6, 1835. In youth he united with the Augspurger congregation, and was elected to the full ministry in 1847. He was especially gifted and was regarded as a leader in the church. During his ministry he performed 78 marriage ceremonies, baptized 140 persons and conducted 70 funerals. He died April 8, 1872, aged 60 years, 7 months and 28 days, and is buried in the Augspurger cemetery.

Rev. Peter Imhoff

Peter Imhoff was born in Baden, Germany, on September 16, 1819. He came to America in 1839, and settled in Butler county, Ohio. He united in marriage with Catherine Augspurger, July 12, 1842. Soon after his arrival he united with the Augspurger congregation, and was elected a minister in 1861, and in 1870 to the office of bishop. He was a strong preacher, and a man with liberal views. It was one of his fond hopes that the two congregations be united as one, which occurred in less than a year after his death. During his ministry he performed 14 marriage ceremonies and baptized 53 persons. He preached his last sermon February 28, and several weeks later, March 20, 1896, he passed to his reward, aged 76 years, 6 months and 4 days, and is buried in the Mennonite cemetery.

Rev. Christian Augspurger

Christian K. Augspurger, son of Rev. Joseph and Magdalena Augspurger, was born in Butler county, Ohio, January 9, 1839. He united in marriage with Eliza Bureky, on February 13, 1862. In 1867 he was elected a minister in the Augspurger congregation, with which he had united in youth. He died February 6, 1907, aged 68 years and 27 days, and is buried in the Mennonite cemetery.

Rev. Joseph Kinsinger

Joseph Kinsinger, son of Johannes and Veronica (Imhoff) Kinsinger, was born in Weisenheim, near Duerkheim; Rheinisch Bavaria, August 19, 1801. He came to America and settled in Butler county in May, 1826. On October 5, 1830, he united in marriage with Magdalena Augspurger. Soon after his arrival he iden-

tified himself with the Augspurger congregation, and in 1844 he was elected a minister, and was ordained by Rev. Jacob Augspurger. He died December 16, 1857, aged 56 years, 3 months, 28 days, and is buried in the Union cemetery at Collinsville.

Rev. Peter Kinsinger

Peter Kinsinger was born in Rhein Bayern, Germany, on January 28, 1827. He united in marriage with Catherine Augspurger in Butler county, Ohio, on February 2, 1853, and again to Elizabeth Stalter on April 4, 1859. In the year 1867 he was elected a minister in the Augspurger congregation, of which he was a member. He died September 7, 1888, aged 61 years, 7 months, 9 days, and is buried in the Mennonite cemetery.

Rev. Joseph Augspurger, 4th

Joseph Augspurger, son of Rev. Jacob and Maria Augspurger, was born in Alsace, France, May 19, 1818, and with his parents came to America in 1819. He united in marriage with Elizabeth Augspurger, October 12, 1837, and the second time to Jacobina Roth, October 12, 1858, and again the third time to Jacobina Rupp on April 7, 1885. He was elected a minister in the Augspurger congregation in the year 1872. He died April 10, 1887, and is buried in the Augspurger cemetery.

Rev. John Augspurger

John Augspurger, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Augspurger, was born near Collinsville, Ohio, November 10, 1830. He was married to Emilie Kennel on May 16, 1859. In the year 1867 he was elected a minis-

ter in the Hessian congregation, with which he united in youth. He died March 20, 1912, and is buried in the Mennonite cemetery.

Rev. Peter Naffziger

Peter Naffziger was born February 23, 1787, in Kirchheimbolanden, Rheinkreis, Bayern, Europe. On March 8, 1812, he was married to Barbara Beck. They emigrated to America in 1826, and settled in Canada, and in 1828 they came to Butler county. Having been ordained a minister before he came to America, he became pastor and bishop of the congregation here. He is said to have been a strong and forceful man, and of a determined disposition. Being very fond of travelling, he made many trips to Kentucky and Illinois on horseback, and twice he walked to New Orleans to minister to a small congregation there. He was known among the brethren of several states as "The Apostle." In 1835, when a division took place in the congregation, he became pastor of the new organization. In 1844 he with his family moved to Illinois, where he continued his labors among the brethren. He died September 16, 1885, aged 98 years, 6 months, 24 days, and is buried in Imhoff cemetery, near Congerville, Illinois.

Rev. Jacob Krehbiel

Jacob Krehbiel, an ordained minister, came from Weierhof, Germany, and settled on the shore of Lake Erie, about forty miles west of Buffalo, where he remained for some years. In 1825 he came to Butler county and became the first pastor of the church here. He moved to Iowa in 1832, where he died at a ripe old age.

Rev. Benedict King

Benedict King, an ordained minister, came with his children, he being a widower, to Butler county from Basel, Germany, prior to 1835. About the year 1840 he moved to Fulton county, where he died, aged 85 years.

Rev. Joseph Goldsmith

Joseph Goldsmith, who was the pioneer Amish Menonite minister of Canada and Iowa, was born in Alsace, France, March 19, 1796, emigrated to America in 1819, and settled in Canada. In 1824 he was called to the ministry and was the first Amish minister ordained in Canada. About 1831 he moved to Butler county, Ohio, and located near Trenton, and later near Darrtown. He was ordained Bishop of the Collinsville congregation in 1838. In 1847 he moved to Lee county, Iowa, where he organized the first Amish congregation in that state. In the year 1855 he organized congregations in Johnson and Henry counties and moved to the latter place in 1857. He died April 26, 1876.

Rev. Daniel Unzicker

Daniel Unzicker was born in Bavaria, March 4, 1798, and united in marriage with Magdalena Kahn on January 28, 1821. They emigrated to Canada in 1828 and moved to Butler county, Ohio, in 1834. Having been called to the ministry before he came to America, he identified himself with the Collinsville congregation and served as one of its ministers until his death, which occurred September 18, 1863, and is buried in the Darrtown cemetery.

Rev. Christian Holly

Christian Holly, son of Rev. Peter and Catherine Holly, was born in Rilferoth, Germany, February 11, 1820, and with his parents came to Butler county in 1832. He united in marriage with Helena Iutzi in September, 1846. In 1860 he was elected a minister in the Hessian congregation and faithfully served in this capacity until his death, which occurred January 8, 1882, and is buried in the Mennonite cemetery.

Rev. Joseph Augspurger, 3rd

Joseph Augspurger, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Augspurger, was born near Paris, France, January 4, 1816, and came with his parents to America and settled in Butler county in 1819. In the year 1834 he united with the Augspurger congregation, and when the division of 1835 took place he cast his lot with the Hessian congregation. He was married to Catherine Goldsmith on March 9, 1843. In 1860 he was chosen a minister and on February 12, 1862, elected and ordained to the office of bishop. He baptized his first class on October 25, 1863, there being six in the class. Rev. Augspurger was a man of broad vision and intelligence, and after an active ministry of thirty-two years, he (in 1892) withdrew from active service, and lived in retirement until February 17, 1896, when he passed to his reward, aged 80 years, 1 month, 13 days. He is buried in the Mennonite cemetery.

Rev. Joseph Augspurger, 2nd

Joseph Augspurger, son of Christian and Catherine Augspurger, was born in France on March 17, 1806, came with his parents to Butler county in 1819. In youth he united with the Augspurger congregation,

and in later years he was elected one of the ministers. On August 9, 1831, he was married to Magdalena Kennel. He died January 29, 1864, and is buried in the family cemetery on the Samuel Augspurger homestead near Woodsdale.

Rev. Joseph Kinsinger

Joseph Kinsinger, a son of John and Barbara Kinsinger, was born in Germany, January 29, 1825, came to America and settled in Butler county, Ohio, in 1850. He was elected a minister in the Augspurger congregation in 1861, and served faithfully in this office until 1868, when he moved to Wayne county, Indiana. Here he established a congregation and preached for them several years. He died December 25, 1894, and is buried in the East Germantown cemetery, Germantown, Indiana.

Rev. W. H. Grubb

William Henry Grubb, son of Rev. Nathaniel and Salome Grubb, was born in Schwenksville, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, September 28, 1879. When four years old his parents moved to the city of Philadelphia, Pa. His educational advantages were the public schools and Temple University. After pursuing the course of study prescribed by the Eastern District Conference, he was granted a license to preach in 1902. In 1903 he was placed in charge of the mission at Allentown, Pa., and organized it into a congregation and served as its pastor for two years. He served the Bethel church at Perkasio, Pa., for five years, and the East Swamp church, near Quakertown, Pa., for three years, simultaneously with the last two he was co-pastor of the Bethany church in Quakertown for seven years. On

September 13, 1903, he was ordained to the ministry and to the office of Elder (Bishop) on June 24, 1906. He united in marriage with Della K. Reed, on January 2, 1904, at Philadelphia, Pa. He assumed the pastorate of the Apostolic Mennonite church, August 1, 1913.

Rev. Henry J. Krehbiel

Henry J. Krehbiel, son of Rev. Jacob and Katherine Krehbiel, was born at Summerfield, Illinois, September 8, 1865. After his public school education was completed, he attended college at Lebanon, Illinois. He taught for several years, and then entered the Evangelical Theological Seminary in St. Louis, from which he graduated in 1892. At this time he received a call from the Hessian congregation, which he accepted on September 25, 1892, when he was ordained to the full ministry by Rev. J. B. Baer. He was married to Miss Lydia D. Ruth on May 25, 1893, at Summerfield, Illinois. After seventeen years of a successful pastorate, he severed his relations with the congregation on August 1, 1909, and accepted a call to the Mennonite church in Reedley, California, where he has since labored with success.

Rev. John E. Amstutz

John E. Amstutz, son of John and Barbara Amstutz, was born at Kidron, Ohio, April 1, 1881. His educational advantages were Bluffton College, Bethel College, Wooster University and Miami University. He united in marriage with Lavina Amstutz, January 26, 1905. From September 1, 1909, to July 1, 1911, he served as supply pastor of the Apostolic Mennonite church. On November 19, 1911, he was ordained to the full ministry and installed pastor of the First Menno-

nite church, Halstead, Kansas, where he still labors with success. His activities have not been confined to his congregation alone, he having been an instructor in Bethel College during the years 1914 and 1915.

Rev. Peter Schrock

Peter Schrock was born June 17, 1803, and emigrated from Nancy, France, to Butler county, Ohio, in 1830. He united in marriage with Magdalena Zimmerman, and the second time with Magdalena Rediger. About the year 1832 he was elected a minister in the Augspurger congregation. He died September 7, 1887, and is buried in the Mennonite cemetery.

Rev. Christian Ramseyer

Christian Ramseyer was born in Switzerland, June 16, 1836, was educated in several colleges of his native country, ordained and preached there until 1860, when he came to America and settled in Butler county, Ohio. He was accepted by the Augspurger congregation as one of its ministers and remained as such for several years. He united in marriage with Catherine Augspurger on November 27, 1862, and died in Hamilton county, January 11, 1891.

Rev. Jacob Mueller

Jacob Mueller, an ordained minister, came from Germany to Butler county in 1845, with his wife and two daughters. While here he lived in a house on the farm of Christian Holly and had the oversight of the Hessian congregation. In 1855 they moved to Illinois, where he died.



Mennonite Parsonage. Trenton, O.

CEMETERIES

There are five Mennonite cemeteries in the county, the oldest being on the Joseph Kinsinger farm, near Collinsville, containing many graves, but only one marker in the entire cemetery, this being on the grave of Elizabeth Augspurger, who died in 1848, and the wife of Joseph Augspurger, one of the original six families. There are, however, many others known to be buried there prior to 1831.

The next oldest is one on the farm of Samuel Kinsinger, on the Princeton Pike, which contains many graves, but not a marker to show the spot. Some years ago the farm passed out of the family and has since been ploughed over.

The third is on the farm owned for many years by Samuel Augspurger, near Woodsdale, and contains only about fifteen graves. Here rest the remains of Christian Augspurger, the pioneer, and his wife. This farm has also passed out of the family, but the cemetery is fenced in and in fairly good condition.

The fourth, which is known as the Augspurger cemetery and is located about a mile southeast of Trenton. It is a little more than a half acre plot deeded to the Augspurger congregation by Rev. Jacob Augspurger about 1830. There are about one hundred graves in the cemetery and it is enclosed with a durable fence. It is still used by some families and kept in condition by Albert Augspurger.

The fifth, which is known as the Mennonite cemetery, is located in St. Clair township, adjoining the Hessian meetinghouse, and was laid out as early as 1863. It is laid out in lots and is managed by three trustees elected by the Apostolic Mennonite church. The funds for its maintenance are raised by the sale of lots and by bequests.

REMINISCENCES

Voyage of the Kennels

John Kennel, with his wife, who was before her marriage Magdalena Naffziger, and their three sons and three daughters, started for America from their home in Kirchheimbolanden, Reinbries, Bayern, Europe, in October, 1830.

They moved in a covered wagon through France to the harbor, expecting to take a ship to New Orleans and from there up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to Cincinnati. But when they reached the harbor the ship had gone, and they would have been obliged to wait five or six weeks before another sailed. They then took a ship for New York, and after a voyage of seventy-six days they landed in New York.

They bought horses, took their wagon from the ship and started overland for Ohio. When they reached Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, a great snow fell, and by the time they reached Lancaster City they could go no further, as three feet of snow had fallen.

Here the city officials opened the Court House to give them shelter. There were thirty in the party, all from the old country, the Kennel family of eight, Smith, Unzicker families and others. A settlement of Mennonites near the city heard of the party of Mennonites who were snowbound in the city and came out with three sleds and took them to their settlement, where they stayed until spring.

They then sailed down the Ohio to Cincinnati, reaching there in April, 1831, then by wagon to Butler county, where Rev. Peter Naffziger, a brother of Mrs. Kennel, lived.

From record of the Kennel Family, by Miss Johanna Kennel

Voyage of the Iutzis and Others

May 16, 1832, Christian Iutzi and his family, with other relatives and friends, about one hundred in all, mostly Mennonites, sailed from Bremen on the Wiser in a sail boat, a two-masted brig, which they had chartered to take them to America.

They landed at Baltimore, Maryland, July 31, 1832, where Christian Iutzi and his brother Michael rented a house, in which they lived two weeks. August 10 the party started overland with wagons for Wheeling, West Virginia, through Chambersburg and Somersset, arriving there August 25. Here they loaded everything on a boat and went on the Ohio river to Cincinnati, arriving there on August 31, 1832.

At Cincinnati they re-loaded their goods on a canal boat and landed at Hamilton, Ohio, on September 3. Here Christian Iutzi and family and the Holly families lived over winter. The party then sent Christian Iutzi and Peter Holly on an inspection tour for land to Illinois, where they went by horseback and wagon. On their return they decided to buy in Butler county. Christian Iutzi then purchased one hundred and ninety-five acres of land in Madison township, near the Miami river, for twenty-five dollars an acre.

From the Iutzi Family Record, by Miss Johanna Kennel

Selecting Ministers by Drawing Lots

The custom of selecting ministers by lot in the Mennonite Church dates from the days of the Reformation, when, because of persecutions, they were obliged to hold their meetings in secret, it was very essential that their ministers were not known outside of their circle. This gave rise to the following of customs of the early Christian era.

Until about fifty years ago it was the universal custom among the Mennonite churches of America to select their ministers in this way. They were largely a rural people and were not much in sympathy with education. Since they were equals in educational advantages, and their interests and tastes were in one and the same direction it was entirely satisfactory. As times changed and education was encouraged, some branches have almost entirely discarded this method, while other conservative branches of the church still adhere to this method.

Every member of the church is expected to be studious and pious, acquainting himself with the word of God. He is to acquire knowledge by reading, by prayer, by faith and by listening to the teachings of the word as it is expounded by the ministers. And in this way all are preparing for a call to the ministry which may come at any time.

When a minister is to be selected it is made known and a day is announced when the congregation assembles to make nominations. After a sermon appropriate to the occasion, nominations are made, after which another day is set for the drawing of lots. In the meantime the members are expected to pray that the spirit of the Lord may come upon him on whom the lot may fall.

On the day set the congregation again assembles and the candidates take their seats together, while one or more sermons are preached, after which a Bible for each candidate is placed on a table before them, one of these containing a slip of paper. Then each candidate advances and takes a Bible and returns to his seat, after which the Bishop examines the Bibles until the slip of paper is found. The others then return to their

places in the congregation and the ordination at once takes place. In some congregations votes are cast instead, and this method was followed by the Hessian congregation.

COST OF BUILDING APOSTOLIC MENNONITE CHURCH

Site	\$ 600.00
Plans and specifications	115.00
Foundation	400.00
Building	3477.53
Roof	485.00
Plastering	375.00
Tin Work	55.00
Carpenter Work	620.00
Hardware and paint	164.94
Painting	85.30
Art windows	369.95
Furnace	183.85
Light plant	120.00
Pews and chairs	370.06
Pulpit furniture	75.00
Side walks	200.00
Incidental expenses	288.08
	<hr/>
	\$7984.71

COST OF BUILDING PARSONAGE

Site	\$ 250.00
House and cellar	1917.28
Cementing cellar	29.75
Furnace and Grate	161.00
Architect	30.00
Barn	143.05
Well	93.75
Pump	17.50
	<hr/>
Total	\$2642.33

MARRIAGE CEREMONIES PERFORMED BY REV. NICHOLAS AUGSPÜRGER

Mar. 26, 1848	John Bount and Magdalena Ehresman
Aug. 3, 1848	Henry Egley and Katie Goldschmidt
Oct. 1, 1848	Jacob Goldschmidt and Susan Engle
Oct. 1, 1848	David Mosiman and Annie Hoffman
Dec. 25, 1848	Nicholas Mouer and Mary Heeler
Oct. 18, 1849	————— and Reecer Hauter
Oct. 18, 1849	Christian Rote and Hersa Hauter
Nov. 18, 1849	Jacob Boler and Kate Smoker
Jan. 13, 1850	Peter Unzicker and Katie Sharch
Feb. 3, 1850	Joseph Augspurger and Barbra Sommer (King)
Apr. 16, 1850	David Sommer and Barbra Kinsinger
May 19, 1850	Christian Roop and Magdalena Rote
July 14, 1850	Peter Kinsinger and Elizabeth Sommer
Sept. 8, 1850	Christian Cimmerman and Barbra Kinsinger
Nov. 10, 1850	Joseph Yoter and Katie Stope (Indiana)
Jan. 12, 1851	George Care and Anna Litwiler
Jan. 23, 1851	Benjamin Gautchey and Mary Fisher
Feb. 20, 1851	John Fisher and Elizabeth Roote
Feb. 23, 1851	Moses Augspurger and Feronica Frey
Mar. 6, 1851	Christian Hoffman and Anna Cuke
Mar. 9, 1851	Valentine Unzicker and Magdalena Sarch
Aug. 3, 1851	Bortle Cuke and Barbra Stuker
Aug. 17, 1851	Joseph Reet and Barbra Augspurger
Sept. 11, 1851	David Augspurger and Elizabeth Shertz
Feb. 1, 1852	Peter Garver and Barbra Heckler
Mar. 23, 1852	———— Boor and Barbra Cimmerman
May 23, 1852	Jacob Cimmerman and Katie Unzicker
Feb. 6, 1853	Dillman Nunamaker and Christena Kinsinger
Feb. 22, 1853	Peter Kinsinger and Katie Augspurger
Aug. 23, 1853	Henry Gauchy and Barbra Meyer
Sept. 22, 1853	—— Cimmerman and —— Cimmerman(Indiana)
Nov. 13, 1853	Otto Salzman and Magdalena Shrock

Aug. 13, 1854	John Kinsinger and Fannie Kinsinger
Oct. 18, 1855	Joseph Kinsinger and Katie Kinsinger
Mar. 13, 1856	Peter Shrock and Elizabeth Augspurger
May 22, 1856	Peter Shertz and Mary Augspurger
Nov. 18, 1856	Christian Bielse and Mary Shertz
Mar. 8, 1857	Chritian King and Mary Meyer
Nov. 15, 1857	Christian Augspurger and Anna Mosiman
Nov. 26, 1857	Joseph Goldsmidt and Magdalena Kinsinger
Feb. 10, 1858	John Gingrich and Katie Ehresman
Mar. 21, 1858	Nicholas Reaser and Katie Garver
Oct. 12, 1858	Joseph Augspurger and Bina Roth
Oct. 17, 1858	Joseph Meyer and Anna Fisher
Dec. 16, 1858	Christian Gingrich and Fannie Sloneker
Mar. 8, 1859	Moses Augspurger and Fannie Kinsinger
Apr. 7, 1859	John Kennel and Jacobena Hauder
Apr. 14, 1859	Peter Kinsinger and Elizabeth Stalter
Apr. 17, 1859	Peter Sommer and Anna Slabock
Apr. 28, 1859	Joseph Meyer and Katie Engle
May 17, 1859	John Augspurger and Amelia Kennel
Aug. 11, 1859	Joseph Unzicker and Magdalena Smoker
Dec. 15, 1859	John Unzicker and Mary Sloneker
Feb. 26, 1861	John Sommer and Mary Iutzi
Mar. 5, 1861	Christian Kinsinger and Mary Schrock
Mar. 24, 1861	Christian Sloneker and Susan Schindler
Mar. 24, 1861	Jacob Sloneker and Lydia Schindler
Sept. 24, 1861	Roke Ehresman and ————
Oct. 31, 1861	Christian Augspurger and Katie Shertz
Jan. 16, 1862	Jacob Augspurger and Barbra Kinsinger
Feb. 13, 1862	Christian Augspurger and Elizabeth Berke
Sept. 9, 1862	Joseph Shanes and Katie Augspurger
Nov. 5, 1862	Joseph Meyers and Katie Augspurger
Nov. 27, 1862	Christian Ramseyer and Katie Augspurger
Dec. 14, 1862	Christian Augspurger and Elizabeth Augspurger
Sept. 24, 1863	Jacob Miers and Mary King

July	3, 1864	Peter Guage and Magdalena Augspurger
Jan.	1, 1865	Joseph Wise and Margrete Linter
Nov.	2, 1865	Jacob Augspurger and Fannie Bachman
Nov.	16, 1865	Christian Mosiman and Anna Kinsinger
Mar.	13, 1866	David Ummel and Anna Koler
Mar.	27, 1866	Christian Augspurger and Mary Smucker
Apr.	2, 1867	Christian Ehresman and Marie Imhoff
Apr.	25, 1867	John King and Magdalena Meirs
Oct.	31, 1867	John Augspurger and Magdalena Berke
Nov.	7, 1867	Samuel Augspurger and Magy Augspurger
Oct.	13, 1868	John Garver and Barbra Engle
Oct.	20, 1870	Jacob Imhoff and Magdalena Schwartzendruber

The above is an exact copy as it is recorded in his journal, and not being familiar with many of the names I have made no attempt to spell correctly.

FAMILY RECORDS

Rev. Jacob Augspurger, born, 1786; died, September 1, 1846. Married Maria Schlabach, born, 1799; died, April 17, 1856.

Children:—

Nicholas, Rev., married Magdalena Gautsche

Jacob, married Catherine Heiser

David, married Magdalena Unzicker (first)

Elizabeth Shertz (second)

Moses, married Fannie Fry (first)

Fannie Kinsinger (second)

Joseph, Rev. (4th), married Elizabeth Augspurger
(first)

Jacobina Roth (second)

Bina Ropp (third)

Mary, married Rev. Joseph Meyer

Catherine, married Rev. Peter Imhoff



AUGSPURGER MEETING HOUSE

Christian Augspurger, born, 1782; died, October 4, 1848. Married, in 1805, Catherine Hauter, died, 1846.

Children:—

Joseph, Rev. (2d), married Magdalena Kennel
Christian, marriedl Magdalena Reese
Jacob, married Elizabeth Schantz
John, married Jacobina Holly
Samuel, married Eliza Holly
Frederick, died single
Catherine, married Samuel Kinsinger
Magdalena, married Rev. Joseph Kinsinger
Barbara, married Peter Iutzi
Mary, died single
Jacobina, died single
Anna, married John Kennel

John Kennel, born, March 11, 1781; died, August 27, 1831. Married, in 1805, Magdalena Naffziger, born, May 26, 1791; died, February 13, 1873.

Children:—

Magdalena, married Rev. Joseph Augspurger (2d)
Peter, Rev., married Susan Iutzi
Barbara, married John Oswald
John, married Emeline Iutzi
Jacob, died single
Jacob, married Catherine Garber
Elizabeth, died single
Catherine, married Peter Unzicker
Christian, died single
Johanna, died single

Christian Iutzi, born, February 1, 1788; died, April 12, 1857. Married, May 11, 1817, Maria Sommer, born, February 14, 1793; died.

Children:—

Susan, married Rev. Peter Kennel
Helena, married Rev. Christian Holly
Emeline, married John Kennel
Elizabeth, died single
Marea, married Christian Ehresman
Jacobina, married John Brenneman
Daniel, died single
George, died single
William, married Elizabeth Augspurger

Jahannes Kinsinger married Veronica Imhoff.

Children:—

Jacob, married Magdalena Augspurger *
Christian, married Magdalena Schrock (first)
Elizabeth Sommer (second)
John, married Christena Schrock
Joseph, Rev., married Magdalena Augspurger ‡
Samuel, married Catherine Augspurger ‡
Peter, died single

The parents never came to America.

* A sister to Christian Augspurger, the pioneer. She, with her family, moved to Iowa in the forties.

‡ Daughters of the Pioneer Christian Augspurger.

John Kinsinger married Barbara —————

Children:—

John, married Phoebe Kinsinger *
Peter, Rev., married Catherine Augspurger (first)
Elizabeth Stalter (second)
Joseph, Rev., married Katie Kinsinger *

John Kinsinger was a distant relative of Jahannes Kinsinger.

* Daughters of John Kinsinger, and grand-daughters of Jahannes Kinsinger.

Joseph Augsperger (1st), born, May 29, 1786; died, December 9, 1869. Married Elizabeth Schlabach, died, July 11, 1848; aged 56 years.

Children:—

Joseph, Rev. (3rd), married Catherine Goldsmith
John, Rev., married Emelia Kennel

Christian, married Katie Shertz

Jacob, married Barbra Sloneker

Elizabeth, married Rev. Joseph Augsperger (4th)

Catherine, married Joseph Sommer

Joseph Augsperger (1st) was married the second time to Barbra King, the widow of John Sommer. She was born February 9, 1806, and died November 18, 1878.

Christian Gauchy married Katherine Goldschmidt

Children:—

Magdalena, married Rev. Nicholas Augsperger

Christian

Jacobina

Benjamin

Henry

They came to America in 1830. She was a sister to Rev. Joseph Goldschmidt.

Christian Shertz married ——— Hauder

Children:—

Elizabeth, married David Augsperger.

Barbra, married George Lane

Lena, married Valentine Unzicker

Catherine, married Peter Unzicker

Michael Salzman, born, 1780; died, November 30, 1861.

Married ————— (first); Magdalena Eyman
(second).

Children:—

Catherine, married John Schrock
Christian
Peter, married ——— Sommer
Lena, married John King

Children, second marriage:—

Barbra, married Jacob Rocky
Michael, died single
Mary, married Eigle Burger (first)
————— Russel (second)
Catherine, married Peter Kehm
Andrew, married Mary Paugh
Bina, married John Stacker
John, married Malinda Shertz

————— King married ——— ———

Children:—

Christian, married Barbra Barnhardt
Nicholas
Jacob
Daniel
Barbra, married John Sommer (first)
Joseph Augspurger (second)
Magdalena, married ——— Miller
John, married Lena Salzman
—————, married ——— Kauffman

————— Sommer married ——— ———

Children:—

Peter, married Anna Schlabach
David, married Barbra Sloneker
Christian, married ——— ———
Joseph, died single
John, married Barbra King

The parents never came to America. Christian was one of the original six families and many years ago with his family moved to Dark county.

Rev. John Sloneker, born, 1777; died, 1814. Married Fanny Lichty, died January 14, 1868.

Children:—

John, married Barbra Schlatter

Peter, married Jacobina King *

Christian, married Anna Shertz (first)

Susan Schindler (second)

Anna Markman (third)

Jacob, married Elizabeth King * (first)

Lydia Schindler (second)

Mary, married John Schadt

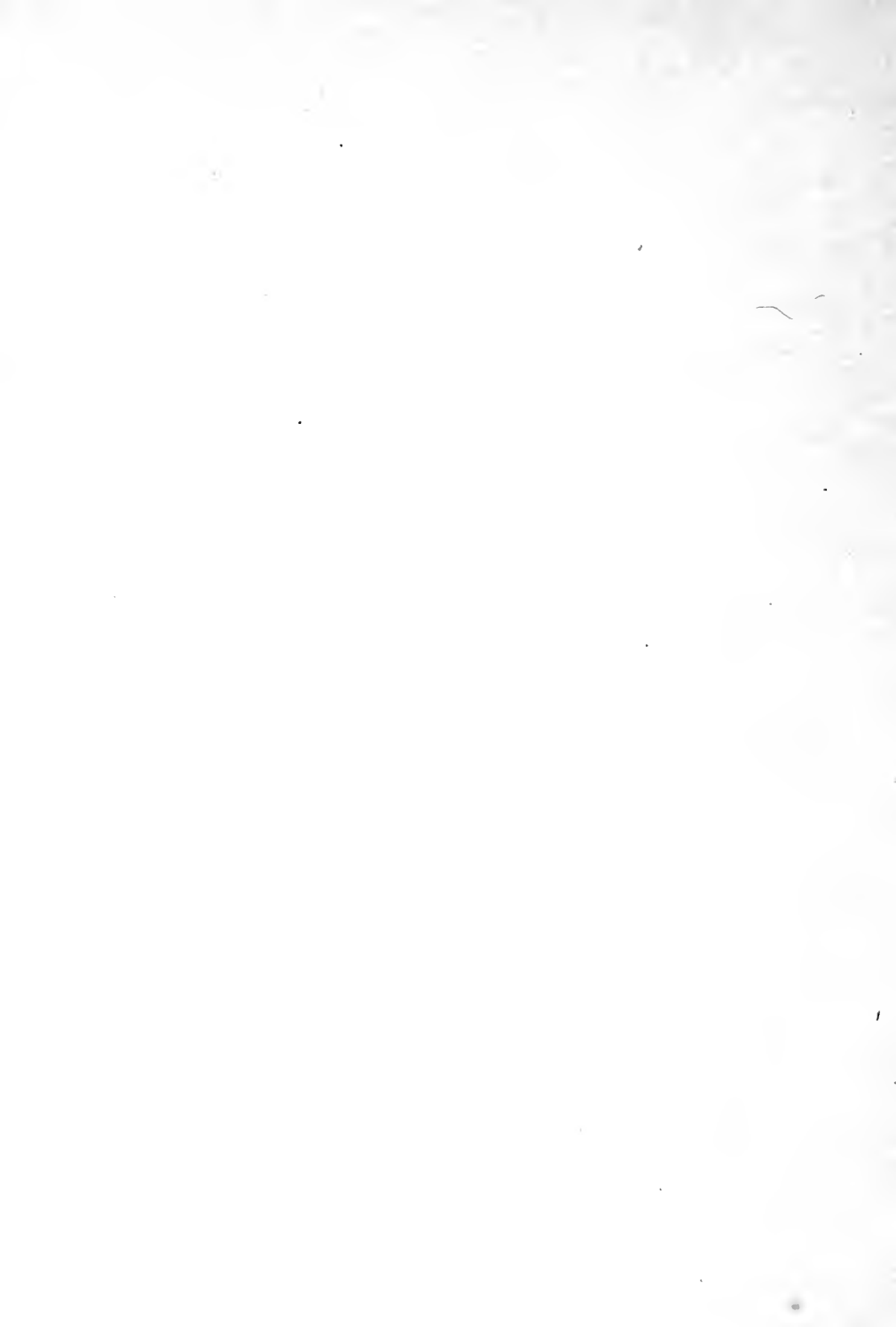
Barbra, married David Sommers

Fanny Ramseyer, married ——— Oswald (first)

Jacob Schmidt (second)

Mrs. Sloneker was married the second time to John Ramseyer, who died in 1818. She with her seven children came to America in 1824, and to Butler county in 1825.

* Daughters of Rev. Benedict King



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